

Chapter 2581

"You're finally back! If Lou hadn't told me, I wouldn't have known where you went!" exclaimed Rudy emotionally.

Fane helplessly pursed his lips. Ever since what happened to Grayson, Rudy had basically become a lost puppy that always seemed to want to go wherever Fane went.

Fane did not want that at all.

Fane frowned and said, "I have my own plans on where I want to go. Why are you here? Did something happen?"

Rudy nodded. After taking a few deep breaths, he composed himself before he said, "If you weren't back now, I would've gone to look for you. We'll be going to Holy Cloud Mountain this evening."

Fane was stunned for a moment after hearing that. He did not know how to react for a moment. Where was this Holy Cloud Mountain?

Just by glancing at Fane, he knew that Fane had definitely forgotten about it.

He pursed his lips in exasperation. "How could you forget? Elder Eliot announced three days ago that all the alchemists would be transferred to the Holy Cloud Mountain to pick up medicinal materials, didn't he?"

With Rudy's words, Fane finally recalled what had happened three days ago. Elder Eliot had summoned all the alchemists to the Elder Hall for a meeting, announcing that they would head to the Holy Cloud Mountain in three days.

The Holy Cloud Mountain was an incredibly important place to Phoenix Valley. There were no violent fiends there, and medicinal materials were plentiful. Every once in a while, Phoenix Valley would gather all the alchemists there to collect materials.

It was something of an added benefit to alchemists because the materials gathered there would all belong to the alchemists themselves.

Nonetheless, Holy Cloud Mountain was incredibly large. It was up to themselves if they could find anything valuable.

He still remembered how excited all the alchemists were when Elder Eliot announced this. Everyone felt like they would surely be able to get something incredibly valuable on Holy Cloud Mountain.

Fane nodded as he gratefully responded, "Thankfully, I came in time. I really forgot about it."

Rudy pursed his lips in exasperation as he pointed at the Elder Hall. "Let's hurry up. We'll probably have to gather soon."

Fane nodded as he headed toward the Elder Hall.

Rudy had a dark look on his face, and it was obvious how worried he was. Noticing this expression, Fane asked Rudy, "Why are you so worried? Didn't we talk about it before? Even though we don't know how Grayson is right now, we should be safe for the time being. Don't think too much about it. As long as we don't do anything too overboard, they shouldn't cause us any trouble."

Rudy could only muster a wane smile at Fane's words as he then turned to look at Fane in admiration. "I'm a narrow-minded person, unlike you. This has always been bugging me. I can't even breathe, what with the thought weighing me down like a massive rock. It's even been keeping me up at night.

"I can't figure out why Grayson is the only one who disappeared after what all the three of us experienced. What did he do that we don't know about? What made him get taken away?"

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Fane irritably raised an eyebrow at Rudy's questions, the same ones that had floated in his mind for a long time. He concluded that he would not be able to get a clear answer to Grayson's situation, so he threw the thought to the back of his mind for the moment.

There was no evidence, and they had no way of getting any evidence. There was no way to figure out the truth, so anything they tried to figure things out would only be speculation.

Since there was no way to gain anything, it was better to not let it disrupt his mood. With that thought in mind, Fane decided to stop thinking about it.

True to his word, Rudy remained internally frantic, a great contrast to Fane. Grayson's disappearance had loomed over him like a ghost, and the more he tried to figure out what had happened to him, the less he understood. He did everything he could to find the answers, but what greeted him were more and more riddles.

Fane stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Rudy seriously. "You won't be able to figure this out, so it'll be in your best interest to just stop troubling yourself over it now. All you need to know is that you won't be in danger for the moment."

Rudy's lips twitched, wanting to say something else but swallowing his words after some thought.

The two of them continued on their walk before eventually, they reached the square in front of the Elder Hall where about 80 to 90 people were already there, either chatting among their own groups about the trip or resting.

They talked about what sort of materials they would be able to obtain on the Holy Cloud Mountain, and how many spirit crystals they would be able to get from it.

To keep the alchemists happy, Phoenix Valley would occasionally give them some benefits. Sometimes, they would allow all the alchemists in the outer valley of Phoenix Valley to head to Holy Soul Mountain to pick medicines, and anything the alchemists picked up would be for the alchemists themselves to take.

Other than that, they would also invite high-level alchemists to answer any questions from the alchemists in Phoenix Valley. They could also use their results to redeem free materials for practice.

Fane felt like all the benefits Phoenix Valley gave were very deliberate. Anything that was free or not were all given after very careful consideration.

They would not provide free materials for all the alchemists because they would not be able to make ends meet if they did.

After all, there were too many alchemists. They needed a lot of practice, and they would use up a lot of materials if the materials were just given for free. Their spirit crystals would rapidly plummet.

People often did not appreciate things that were free as well. If they used their own money for materials, they would be more careful when they were practicing and try to waste as little as possible. They would probably appreciate less if Phoenix Valley provided everything for free.

Rudy started to get excited while Fane was thinking about everything. He looked around before he said, "I thought that Phoenix Valley would keep on pushing us, though. I never expected benefits like this. I might be able to get something amazing in Holy Cloud Mountain!"

The thought of finally showing up and showing off on Holy Cloud Mountain. inspired Rudy, and he could barely contain his excitement. Fane, on the other hand, nodded with a smile, not saying anything. He could already tell the Holy Cloud Mountain was a place to be.

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Rudy finally had a better impression of Phoenix Valley because of that.

"I've already made some marks the last time I went to Holy Cloud Mountain, and I won't go anywhere else this time. I'll first find my mark and pick up some Wind Spirit Grass."

"Why didn't you pick it up last time? Why did you have to wait for this time? It hasn't been that long, do you think it would really get better in just a few months?"

"Do you have a brain? I made a mark and didn't pick it last time because those guys were around. I noticed it at that time, but they didn't. Don't you think they would've snatched it from me had I taken it at that time?"

"That's true... With how they are, the moment they find something good, they'll try to take it for themselves. The Wind Spirit Grass is a seventh-grade medicine, and an upper-rank one at that. If they noticed it, they'd take it, whatever it may cost."

The flurry of discussions had caught Fane's attention. He turned to look around to notice a few familiar faces. He had seen them in the Elder Hall before but did not know what they were called.

Rudy had naturally heard their exchanges as well. He frowned as he thought about it for a while before he whispered, "The conflicts happening here aren't hidden at all. Those who think they are talented will just take things from others without bothering to hide it, and that's a bother. Why do you think the elders just allow them to do anything they want to?"

Rudy got more frustrated the more he thought about it. No matter how he looked at it, he was at the end of the line in Phoenix Valley. In that case, if he picked up anything that was at a high level, it would be forcibly taken away by those who were talented if they noticed him.

They might not be that much stronger than Rudy in terms of martial arts, but they would no doubt try to push Rudy down with their power. Anyone who learned the Way of the Phoenix Pill thought they were better than all the others.

Furthermore, the whole Phoenix Valley supported that idea. After all, the Way of the Phoenix Pill was incredibly hard to understand and learn. Regular alchemists never even dared to try.

The Way of the Phoenix Pill was open to all in Phoenix Valley. Any alchemist was allowed to try to learn it, yet not many managed to learn it even though it was in the Elder Hall for all to see.

The harder a Way of the Pill was, the more potential a person had in alchemy if they mastered it; this was common knowledge.

Anyone who mastered the Way of the Phoenix Pill would at least become seventh-grade alchemist. The power of ranks between alchemists was incredibly huge, and a seventh-grade alchemist could easily deal with a sixth-grade alchemist without any issues.

That was why alchemists who were not as talented would never dare cause trouble to those who were. Even if the talented ones looked for trouble, the non-talented ones would just have to tolerate it and suck it up. As long as the talented ones got what they wanted and were satisfied, they would leave.

Frustrated, Rudy looked up at Fane. "If I had your talent and courage, I wouldn't be so afraid or conflicted right now."

Fane glanced at Rudy and saw the frown on Rudy's face. When he thought back to what the others were saying, he immediately knew why Rudy was so frustrated.

Fane merely sighed; there were some problems that he just could not be solved.

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Rudy started to get frustrated as his face reddened. "What do you think the higherups are thinking? I refuse to believe they don't know anything about these thieves operating right under them. We're being bullied here! Can't they stand up and say a thing or two or even take care of matters for us?"

Fane looked at Rudy helplessly. Not wanting to have his ears filled with his complaints, he answered, "Can you just think about it? You're asking why they aren't caring about anything, but don't you realize that the more they allow the infighting to continue, the more people would try to fight for themselves?"

"Phoenix Valley gives every alchemist their own chances, but the reason they do that is to find more talented and stronger alchemists.

"They let the alchemists do what they want because they want to stir up the competitive spirits of regular alchemists. They want the alchemists to be frustrated so they'll put all their focus into alchemy. They want the alchemists to constantly want to improve so they'll get more higher-level alchemists. This will benefit Phoenix Valley even more, hence why they let such rivalries and conflicts persist."

Hearing Fane's explanation, Rudy could only nod. Fane made sense when he said that Phoenix Valley allowed those habits to cultivate even more alchemists.

They would not care if it was fair or not, because the world practiced the survival of the fittest only. There was no such thing as fairness.

The two that were standing in front of Fane and Rudy got more and more excited as they discussed. They talked about various pills to the materials that they needed, and all the while, Fane listened to the important points.

"It's been raining constantly the past few months, so the Flame Roots must've already matured. As long as we look around at the wetter areas, we should be able to pick up quite a few Flame Roots."

"Flame Roots are amazing things, and a mature Flame Root is incredibly valuable. There was a five-hundred-year Flame Root a few days ago sold for two thousand spirit crystals!"

The moment he heard that, the other guy's eyes widened. "Two thousand? Why has the price soared by so much? I saw someone selling Flame Roots before. A five a hundred-year-old flame root is already one of the best, but it was only worth a thousand and five hundred. How could it go up by so much?!"

"How could you ask that question? Haven't you heard about what happened before?" The moment the person finished, it was not just the guy next to him to widen his eyes. Fane and Rudy could not help but perk up their ears to listen to the explanation.

Unfortunately, the person suddenly pushed his voice down to a whisper, unwilling to let anyone else hear it. Fane concentrated to listen in though only able to catch only a few words.

The other person said, "They're already fighting outside. I don't know when they'll stop."

That was massive news. Even though he could not get the details, Fane could see how important the problem was. Ever since they entered Phoenix Valley, they had been completely separated from the outside world.

Fane did not know what was happening in Middle Province. Even though Fane was not tied that closely to the place, he felt like he would be in danger if he did not figure it out, especially after the ambush and Grayson's disappearance,

Fane took a deep breath, wondering if he should go to the individuals and inquire more about the situation. After all, the situation was already at that level, so it should not be a big issue for him to ask about it.

Just as he was preparing to ask the questions, Rudy suddenly whispered something to Fane.

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"Those two guys have been looking at you the whole time, and I felt something was off from the start. When we first came over, he was only stealing glances at you, but now he's staring at you really obviously."

Surprised by this, Fane turned to look at Rudy, who lightly coughed as he tilted his head to the side. Fane thus averted his gaze and saw two familiar faces staring at him.

Harold and Johnson were staring at Fane with widened eyes. Various emotions could be seen on their faces as they looked over at Fane and Rudy. When Fane looked over, the two of them averted their gazes at the same time, turning around as if nothing was happening.

Fane frowned. He had been busy with other things as of late, while Harold and Johnson had both kept quiet and not caused him any trouble, so he had almost forgotten about what had happened between the two of them.

However, it seemed like he had thought too kindly of these two; Harold and Johnson probably did not have the right opportunity to cause him trouble. The hatred that practically burned in their eyes toward him was unmistakable, and Fane could see it.

Rudy furrowed his eyebrows. "It looks like they're going to cause you trouble, but I just don't know how and what. I had thought that things would be peaceful after you slapped the two of them in the face with your skills."

Fane sighed lightly, "I did, too."

After that, Fane continued with a cold smile, "I thought of them too lightly. I thought that my display of skills had zipped them up entirely, but that seemed to be in vain after all."

Rudy looked at Fane with slight worry. "Will they pull a low blow? Should we prepare something? Maybe we should counterattack first?"

Fane shook his head as he said calmly, "It's pointless to do all of that; we just need to respond to anything that happens. Even if they want to cause me trouble, it'll depend on if they have the skills to do so."

Rudy nodded. He was quite confident in Fane, but the moment he thought about Harold and Johnson's gaze from earlier, Rudy felt incredibly uncomfortable.

Grayson's riddle had already frustrated him enough, and with Harold and Johnson added into the mix, Rudy felt like Phoenix Valley was a vortex of trouble. He wanted nothing more than to leave.

"I think you can't let them do as they please. I say you give them a lifelong lesson they won't soon forget, and only then will they know you're no pushover," persisted Rudy as he rubbed his chin.

Fane nodded. Fane might think that Rudy was incredibly foolish when it came to other matters, but Rudy was spot on on this one. He could not show too much leniency to people like Harold or Johnson.

Only by showing them true fear would he be saved from trouble in the future.

With that in mind, Fane started to think about how he would deal with both Harold and Johnson.

After Johnson and Harold averted their gazes, the two of them started to whisper to each other.

"Harold, do you think that person is reliable?" fretted Johnson. "An inner disciple might be strong, but he's still an inner disciple in the end.

"Why don't we spend a bit more money for a chosen disciple? That would guarantee our success!"

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Harold's eyebrow twitched as he looked at Johnson unhappily, and said, "Who do you think that guy is? Don't you know how strong an inner disciple is?"

"We're just dealing with Fane. Using a chosen disciple would be going way overboard. If we really did that, it would just be us regarding him too highly!"

Johnson's lips twitched helplessly as he nodded at Harold's words. However, Johnson was a hundred percent certain with everything.

He took a deep breath as he explained, "I know what you're thinking. Getting an inner disciple would normally be more than enough to deal with Fane.

"After all, Fane's just an alchemist, so there's no way he'll be stronger than an inner disciple. However, no matter what, we're taking a great risk this time. If this matter leaked out, we both know how heavily we would be punished.

"We would be doomed if that happened. We should be more careful just in case anything happens. Even if we have to spend a bit more money to get a chosen disciple, it would assure us that nothing would happen to us. It's not because we're overestimating him."

Harold frowned and said as he looked even unhappier, "Why are you always so soft with whatever you do? That brat is at the middle stage of the innate level at most.

"An inner disciple will at least already be at the spring solidifying realm. Do you know how big the difference between the innate realm and the spring solidifying realm is? Spring solidifying realm experts can kill an innate realm fighter with a mere pinch.

"Fane's only at the early stage of the innate realm, or maybe the middle stage at most. With that level, he wouldn't be able to do anything in front of a spring solidifying realm expert. He would be able to kill Fane easily. Why would we need a chosen disciple that's even stronger? I really feel like you're getting dumber and dumber lately."

Johnson helplessly sighed again. He did not mean it that way, but there were some things that people would not understand even if he explained them. However, Johnson had always been incredibly careful. If they failed, it would not end well for both of them.

It was something that would tie into their future. Johnson could not help but reach out and grab Harold's arm as he said in an incredibly earnest tone, "I feel like we should get two, or at least one chosen disciple. We would be more secure then."

Harold rolled his eyes as he slapped Johnson's arm and replied, "Is there really something wrong with your head? Things are already at this stage, why would you want me to change my mind?"

"Why didn't you tell me this a few days before? We've already confirmed the person and he's already been sent over..."

Johnson's face darkened as he said, "He's already been sent over? How did this happen so fast? I thought that he would only go after we've already gone over... I mentioned it too late, but that's because you just told me everything just now." Harold's mouth stiffened as he realized it. He had been fervently arranging the matter the past few days, and Johnson had been busy refining pills. The two of them had not had any time to meet.

He had only told Johnson about the matter in the morning. He had forgotten to mention it as he was in a hurry.

Harold explained helplessly, "Of course, we should send him in first. Elder Eliot will definitely be waiting next to the transfer array after we head over. If he tried to transfer over after that, wouldn't we be exposed? Do you think I'd be so dumb?"

Johnson slapped his forehead and replied, "That's true. It's my fault for not thinking it through. It seems like I really did speak up too late.

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After he said that, Johnson sighed helplessly. He had an incredibly worried expression on his face. Harold frowned as he looked at Johnson's expression. He got even angrier as he turned around and stared at Johnson coldly.

"Seriously, is there something wrong with your brain? What kind of amazing enemy do you think Fane is? Do you think an inner disciple wouldn't be able to handle him?"

Johnson hurriedly shook his head as he said, "I don't mean it that way! It's just that the two of us are done for if this is exposed.

"That's why I wanted to look for someone who can take care of Fane properly. I want him to die before he can even react!"

Harold rolled his eyes and replied, "Michael is in the top fifty of the inner disciples. An innate stage alchemist couldn't possibly

cause him any trouble.

"Don't worry, there won't be any problems, and he won't betray us. After all, if this matter is exposed, he would meet the same end like us."

Johnson took a deep breath and replied, "I hope there won't be any accidents."

The two of them discussed between one another as Elder Eliot finally walked over from the Elder Hall. Elder Eliot's face was red as he slowly walked down the steps.

He had an incredibly pleased expression as if something good had happened. When everyone saw how happy Elder Eliot was, they could not help but look at him with a curious gaze.

After Elder Eliot got off the stairs, he cleared his throat, "The time I set for everyone is now. Those who aren't here will be disqualified. There's no need to say anything else, come with me!"

After that, Elder Eliot turned around decisively. No one dared to utter another word at that moment as they all followed behind Elder Eliot. In just a moment, he arrived in front of a large seal array.

The array was the largest teleportation array Fane had ever seen before. It was the size of half a basketball court back in Cathysia. Even over a dozen people would not feel crowded standing there.

The array was filled with various seals that were glowing in different colors. There were many spirit crystals of various sizes on it. Elder Eliot pointed his finger at it and said, "This array can send twenty people in one go. All of you line up and don't crowd around. You'll all be sent to Holy Cloud Mountain. Let me explain some things in advance. The identification badges in your hands will be navigation badges in Holy Cloud Mountain."

Fane raised an eyebrow as he took out his identification badge. Elder Eliot paused for a moment before saying, "After you are sent to Holy Cloud Mountain, you will have three days. You're allowed to do anything you want in Holy Cloud Mountain for three days. No matter what you get, it will belong to you, but don't try any petty movements.

As he said that, Elder Eliot had a very stern tone. After that, his sharp gaze swept over everyone present before he said, "In order to stop you from losing your way, your identification badges have been specially modified. The moment the time is up, the

identification badge will glow red. You just need to follow its instructions to return to the array.

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"Let me say this again. Don't try to attempt any petty schemes. If I find out, you won't be let off so easily."

Fane could hear what Elder Eliot meant by those words. It seemed like he was worried that some people would act wantonly in the absence of supervision.

His next words proved Fane's thoughts as he continued, "If anyone dies, the identification badge will notify me. I'll be able to immediately determine where everyone is.

"Anyone who appears close to the dead person will be immediately investigated by me. No one will be able to escape! All of you are no stranger to my temper. I'd rather kill the wrong person than let that person go, so don't you dare do anything of the sort!"

Even though alchemists were not as intense as martial artists since everyone had their focus on refining pills, their relationships with one another were not so harmonious.

Everyone had their own little thoughts. Some grudges between them were already at irreconcilable levels. Holy Cloud Mountain was massive and far away. The moment they enter, they would all be essentially unsupervised.

They could do whatever they wanted there. Phoenix Valley's higher-ups must have figured out such a method to prevent any loss of an alchemist's life due to grudges. The identification badges would be able to determine their positions and whether or not they were alive.

Rudy whispered into Fane's ear, "That's a good method, but I'm still worried that those two will cause us trouble after going in there."

That made Fane frown speechlessly before he asked, "Shouldn't we be happy if the two of them come over to try and cause us trouble?"

Rudy immediately reacted when Fane said that. Probably because of how long had passed, he had forgotten how strong the person next to him was.

Rudy could not hold himself back with that thought in mind as he let out a laugh. It immediately attracted the attention of everyone around them. Harold and Johnson looked over as well, which immediately caused Rudy to shut his mouth in fear. He no longer dared to be so excited.

After Elder Eliot read out all the rules, he started to arrange for everyone to get on the array. Fane and Rudy were the third batch to get onto the array. Based on how long the transfer took, Fane determined that Holy Cloud Mountain was definitely quite far away from Phoenix Valley.

It was a long-range transfer. If anything unexpected happened and he needed to leave Phoenix Valley immediately, Holy Cloud Mountain would be a very good place to retreat to.

It was an incredibly wet forest. When they arrived at the place, a wave of humidity hit everyone. The humidity had an amount of heat to it and it assaulted their bodies. It made Fane feel incredibly uncomfortable.

After getting off the array, everyone had sour looks on their faces. It was not the first time some of them were there, but they still felt incredibly uncomfortable.

Rudy frowned and cursed, "This place is so humid and wet. It feels like I just got thrown into a muddy river."

Fane nodded before he turned to look at the Holy Cloud Mountain, not saying anything.

"Let me follow you!" Rudy said from behind.

Fane raised an eyebrow and nodded. With Fane's personality, he would have preferred to be on his own, but Rudy would definitely not allow him to do so as he was incredibly afraid of dying at that moment.

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Once everyone had arrived at the Holy Cloud Mountain, Elder Eliot announced that they were free to do anything they wanted for the next three days. They would not be disturbed by anyone during that period.

After three days, they would all have to gather there. Everyone would be sent back to Phoenix Valley. Elder Eliot seemed to be worried that any accidents would happen, so he repeated it a few times.

After everyone promised that they would not do anything they should not, he let everyone leave.

Fane did not delay things for a single moment before heading in a direction that not many have taken. Rudy followed closely behind him like an unshakeable tail.

The two of them walked deeper into Holy Cloud Mountain as they talked. Rudy was still hung up on Harold and Johnson, and whether or not they would try to pull any tricks.

"I'm still a bit worried. I feel like the two of them were looking at both of us really strangely earlier. It was as if they were about to get what they wanted. I'm getting goosebumps just thinking about it."

Fane nodded, "They're allowed to think what they want to. As long as they dare to pull anything, they'll be the ones to suffer.

"Holy Cloud Mountain must be really amazing if everyone reveres it so much. What we need to do right now is focus on collecting materials. We'll definitely be able to profit a lot."

Fane's thoughts were fully on spirit crystals at that moment. After gathering highlevelled materials, he would definitely be able to get a lot of spirit crystals.

When Fane advanced, he ascertained his own direction. He did not actually have a goal at that moment. He merely did not want to go in the same direction as any last group. He felt like trouble always started when he met other alchemists.

It was better for him to travel where there were fewer people. Even though the place seemed more isolated, at least he would not get involved in any conflicts.

Rudy could not stop talking. Most of his focus was on Phoenix Valley and Grayson. What those two people were talking about earlier caused Rudy to wonder what was happening outside.

"I feel like something must definitely have happened, but I can't seem to figure out what exactly it is. We all know what kind of a group the Middle Provine Alchemist Alliance is. It's been in the Middle Kingdom for so many years, what kind of group would dare to go against it?"

"I really can't figure out what happened outside. I'm really eager to leave this place right now. I feel like I've been in prison ever since I came to Phoenix Valley. It feels so uncomfortable."

Fane nodded. It was a problem that had been on his mind for a while. He did not have enough evidence, so he did not know if his speculations were accurate.

Rudy walked a few steps forward and said, "There's been way too many weird things happening lately. Could Grayson's incident have something to do with it as well? How did he go missing? Could it really be because he did something with us, or is it because there's something different about him..."

Fane helplessly stopped walking and replied, "Even if you completely wreck your brains, you won't be able to figure it out. There's no reason to waste your time on it."

"Why are you here? Isn't it to get materials? Why are you wasting your precious time thinking about something you can't get any answers to? Are you dumb?"

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Rudy's face stiffened at Fane's words. Thinking about it, he felt like Fane was right. He really was doing all of that at the wrong time and place. If he wasted all his precious time on that matter, it would be incredibly stupid.

He took a deep breath, feeling like something was wrong with him at that moment. He shook his head vigorously, tossing those errant thoughts aside before he walked forward and arrived next to Fane.

At that moment, he cast his gaze throughout his surroundings to see if he could find anything that was hidden among the grass. However, in a short moment, he found himself frozen.

Rudy grabbed Fane's arm, causing Fane to frown. Fane could clearly feel the hand that Rudy had on his arm was trembling slightly.

It was as if Rudy had discovered something incredible.

He immediately turned to look at Rudy who had his eyes widened. Rudy had one hand on his arm and another hand pointing in a certain direction.

Fane followed where his finger was pointing and noticed a black-clothed man standing quietly about a dozen or so meters away from them, looking at the two of them coldly.

Fane raised an eyebrow, lamenting that his senses were far too dull. Someone was standing there, but he had actually not felt it. However, Fane could not be blamed for it.

None of them who came to Holy Cloud Mountain was at the spring solidifying realm, so Fane did not think that anyone would be able to hide from him and thus lowered his guard.

"Who is this..." Rudy's voice was a little shaky.

Even though Rudy was not that strong, he could still tell that the black-clothed man was already in the spring solidifying realm. On top of that, he was staring at them with an incredibly cold gaze. It was obvious that he was not friendly.

A spring solidifying realm expert was a mountain that Rudy could not overcome. If he fought against someone from the spring solidifying realm, he would die in a flash.

There was too large of a gulf between the two of them. No matter physically or mentally, Rudy was feeling a lot of pressure. Fane raised an eyebrow as he reached out and pushed Rudy behind him.

At that moment, Rudy could do nothing other than relying on Fane to protect him. Fane felt like anyone who would cause them trouble and wanted to kill them would definitely be aiming for him and not Rudy.

However, Rudy was already incredibly fearful. He looked up and said emotionally, "Didn't you say that we should be safe for the time being? They're still here! Are we going to disappear like how Grayson did..."

Fane raised an eyebrow as he looked at Rudy helplessly. He reached out and pat Rudy on the arm.

He said in a calm tone, "I can't be sure about anything else, but this person who suddenly appeared in front of us is absolutely not with those people."

Michael let out a cold laugh as he stepped out of the trees after hearing what Fane had said. His eyes were like hooks as they were fixated on Fane.

"You're one of the most composed people I've seen. I thought that you would immediately start crying and begging for mercy the moment you saw me."

Fane let out a cold smile as he measured the man in front of him. The man had black clothes on and did not cover his face at all. The fact he stood right in front of Fane led Fane to conclude that the man was there to silence him forever.

After thinking about it, two faces flashed in Fane's mind. He let out a soft laugh as he said incredibly calmly, "Was it Harold who invited you here?"